



For Immediate Release

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***HELP COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING TO EXAMINE UNIFORM,
NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS***

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today questioned whether consumers are best protected by varied food safety and labeling standards in different states during a hearing to examine how the "National Uniformity for Food Act," S. 3128, will affect food safety across the nation.

"We are all affected by the actions that our Federal and State government take in regulating food safety standards," Enzi said. "Consumers need consistent, science-based information about these products. Yet warning labels and other notifications vary from state to state. This bill will create a uniform, national system of food safety standards and warning requirements so that consumers can understand the risks as well as the benefits of the foods they eat."

S. 3128 would preempt certain state laws regarding food labels to create uniform, national standards set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In cases where the FDA has not established a safety standard for a particular substance in food, the states would remain free to set and enforce their own standards. The bill also allows a state with a requirement that differs from the related federal requirement to petition the FDA either to adopt its requirement or to grant it an exemption. Enforcement of food safety standards would remain at the state level.

"Why should we weigh risks and benefits together when it comes to drugs, but separately by state when it comes to food?" Enzi said. "Why should we charge FDA with regulating the positive information about foods, but leave decisions about warnings and tolerances to the States? And do consumers really benefit from a 50-state hodgepodge of different warnings and labels on these products? I hope this hearing will help us answer these questions as we consider the National Uniformity for Food Act."

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